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Escape to Me. The Great State of Maine Flat Water Canoeing

Maine Department of Economic Development

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(continued from inside)

7. Moosehead L: Greenville to N.W. Carry & return, 200 mi; $\Delta\Delta$; 1-2 wks; beware sudden squalls, strong winds, power boats.
 8. Attean L. trip: 40 mi; 3 days; Δ^* ; 2-4 ptg; Jackman, Wood P., Attean L, 1½ mi, ptg, to Holes P & S, return to Jackman by Moose R; inquire directions to avoid falls.
 9. Penobscot R: Mattawamkeag to Howland, 22 mi; (3a), two 1 mi. rapids, and one of 2 mi; 1 ptg (dam above Howland); to Old Town, 24 mi. (1b); to Bangor the pollution and dams make it not worth the effort; Bangor to Sandy Point, 25 mi., strong tidal effects, waves from winds; unsafe for canoes beyond Sandy Point.
 10. Mattawamkeag R: Smyrna Mills to Pleasant L, 9 mi.; (3ah); to Haynesville, 18 mi. (2a); to Wytopitlock, 21 mi; (2a); to Rt. 170 bridge, Kingman, 12 mi; out here, heavy rapids downstream. Fish S. & W. Branch Mattawamkeag: Patten to Mattawamkeag L, 15 mi; (1b), good fishing; to Haynesville, 18 mi; (2a) Δ . Molunkus S: 35 mi; 2 days; Δ^* ; mostly wooded, 4-5 rapids. Sherman Sta. to Monardna, 10 mi (2ah); to Macwahoc, 13 mi (2a); to Kingman (2 mi. up Mattawamkeag R), 12 mi. (2a).
 11. Penobscot R, W. Branch: Seboomook L (west end) to Chesuncook Village, 40 mi.; mostly (1a) with (3a) roll dams (shallow ledges) for 1 mi; $\Delta \Delta \Delta^*$; 1 ptg; (good side trip to Lobster L); to Ripogenus Dam, 19 mi. (choppy in wind); inquire re. logs in booms. Chesuncook L. is also used for trips into the Allagash.
 12. Aroostook R: fly in to Millimicassett L; to Oxbow Landing, 19 mi. (2a), 1 rapid (cl. I) rocky in low water; Δ^* ; (fly-in start can be made from Chase or Millinocket Lakes, but the streams to Aroostook R. are quick-water) to Ashland, 28 mi (2b); to Presque Isle, 28 mi. (here to Ft. Fairfield may be polluted unpleasantly). St.Croix S: Howe Brook to Masardis [access: B&A RR], 18 mi. 1-2 days, wild, pleasant; (2a) with one 2 mi. rapid (inquire).
 13. Fish R. Lakes: from St. Agatha, Long L to Mud, Cross, Square, Eagle Lakes, to Fish R., 29 mi. plus much more lake paddling. (1a) Δ ; can continue up river to Fish River L. (1a)-(2ah) Δ ; or to St. John R. to Frenchville, 30 mi. a few miles from start'g point (with 5 mi. of quick-water, some sharp drops, 2 or more ptg).
 14. Allagash Wilderness Waterway: G; Partly flat-water; some rapids; for details and special regulations see separate folder; administered by State Park and Recreation Commission.
 15. Sebago & Long Lakes: Sebago L, $\Delta\Delta$; up Songo R. through Songo Lock to Long L; Δ ; 15 mi. plus 5 mi. ptg. to Crooked R. (so. of Bolsters Mills), return to Songo R. 22 mi., 2 ptg.
 16. Damariscotta R.& L: circle trip, 50 mi. 3 days, Δ ; Damariscotta Mills up lake, east then so. through bay; ptg. 1½ mi. to Pemaquid P.R. to Pemaquid (ptg here & at Bristol); tidewater; cross John Bay (only well-experienced canoeists in favorable weather only) to S. Bristol; up R. to starting place.
 17. Bagaduce R: Walker P. to Castine, 15 mi; tidewater with coves, bays, etc. (check sluice under bridge at N. Brooks-ville before running--tide affects it markedly).
 18. Chiputnecook Lakes: Grand L. (east of Orient), Spednik L. (to Vanceboro), 36 mi. (much more available); Δ^* , mostly wild area; river section past Forest City, 1 ptg. (+ drop); St. Croix R. below Vanceboro should be run only by well experienced canoeists; mostly rapids to (class III & IV).
 19. Grand Lakes chain: extensive canoeing in lakes: Syslodopsis, Pocompus, Junior, Scraggly, Pleasant, West Grand, Big, and Grand Falls Lake, plus several smaller ones; Δ .
- Other good canoeing** (see A.M.C. Canoeing Guide for details): Androscoggin L. & connecting ponds; Aziscohos Dam to Parmachenee L. or Umbagog L. Δ/G ; Nicatous L. Δ , Passadumkeag R; Squapan L. Δ ; Penobscot R, No. Br.- (Big Bog Dam to Seboomook L) Δ/G ; St. George R; Union R & Graham L; Sebec L & R; Pocamoonthine L. & E. Machias R; Ellis R; Great Moose P. & Sebastiancook R; Dennys R. & Orange R. to Whiting Bay; Moxie P. (caution about stream); Pemadumcook & connecting lakes; Schoodic, Seboeis, Endless L; see brochures in CAMPING & FIRES section, for other lakes with camping.

EQUIPMENT

Canoes: 18'-20' recommended; many guides say shorter ones are unsafe. Aluminum or molded fiberglass are lighter than canvas-covered ones, and easier to maintain--but aluminum seems to hang up on rocks easier and to have more drag in the water. A slight keel is advantageous on a lake but interferes with maneuvering when running downstream, poling through rapids.

Paddles: 3 to each canoe for long trips or running rapid streams; fir or pine break and scuff easily -- choose fiberglass, spruce with blade guard, or hardwood (ash is lighter than maple); length about as tall as the user. For running rocky rapids or poling upstream a 12' pole is good.

Rope: ¼", 10'-15' tied to bow and stern for lining down rapids; Rescue throwline: ¼", 50'-100'.

For Transporting: car roof-rack, extra wide to hold 2 canoes; tie canoes to car -- don't trust the fasteners of carrying racks to hold canoes during travel.

Make Check List of equipment & supplies, but remember space and weight limits--portages are usually a "lug-um-yourself" deal! Consider essentials: to fish, camp, sleep, cook, eat; for fire-building, canoe patching, first-aid, personal care, clothing, lighting, raingear; remember USGS maps, compass, waterproof packing boxes & bags, life-jackets or vests, and don't forget insect repellent or you may remember it during your whole trip and for a long while after!

THIS VACATION PLANNER

provides a brief outline of canoe trips suited to novice and intermediate skills. Pointers are given to help make these camping-canoe trips happy and safe adventures for you. More difficult trips are suggested in the companion Vacation Planner "Canoeing Quick-Water in Maine".

This is one in a series of Vacation Planners programmed by the Maine Department of Economic Development and available from Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102. Prospective visitors to Maine are primarily interested in the "facts", and these brochures are designed with this in mind. We would appreciate receiving your comments.

Please write:

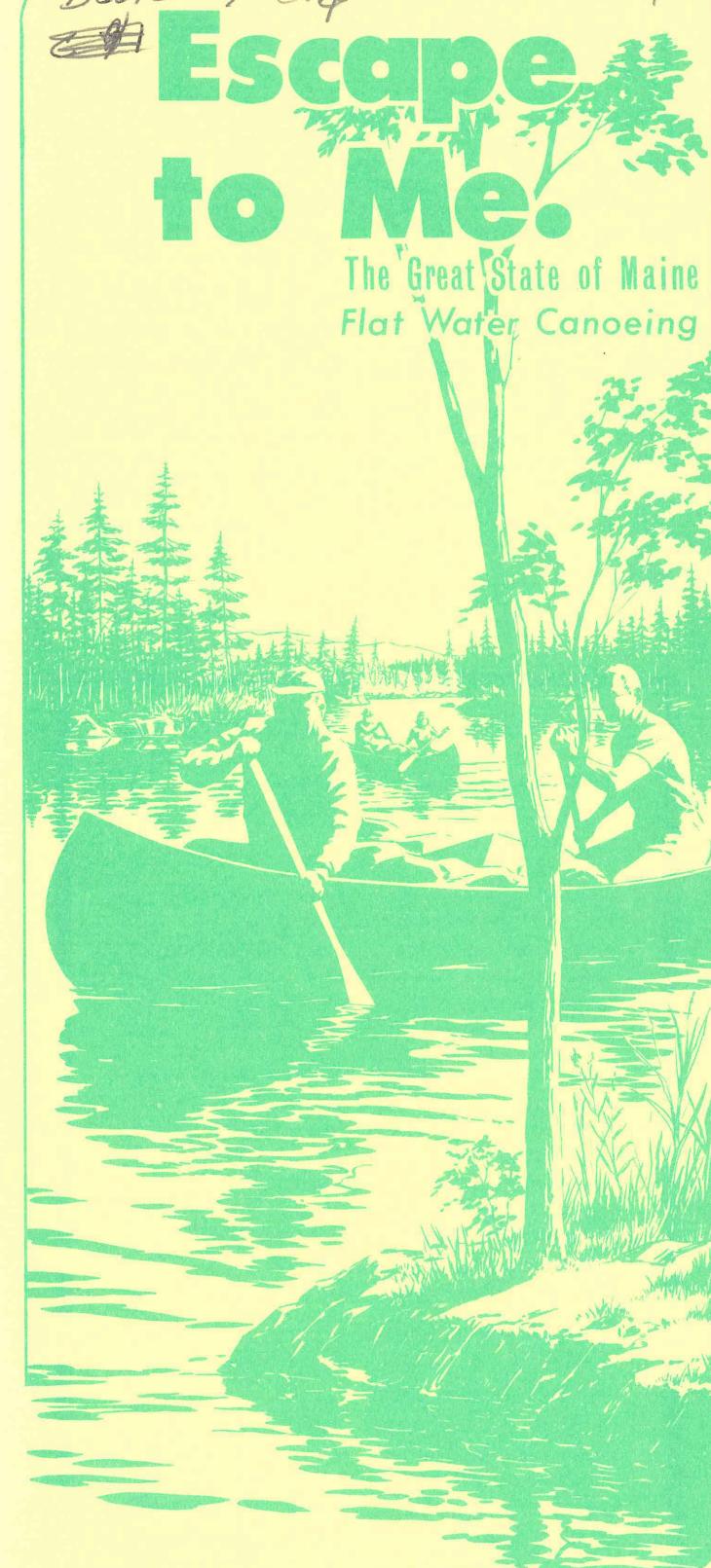
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VACATION PLANNER 4

THE MAIN THING ABOUT CANOEING IS ... MAINE

In number and variety of canoeing waters Maine has no equal in the eastern U. S. (or perhaps anywhere of comparable area): small ponds to large lakes; peaceful, meandering brooks; eager quick-water streams; turbulent torrents hurtling through white-water ravines; easy-going small rivers to strong sizeable ones; and protected tidewaters where some of these meet the sea. Many of these watercourses challenge the skills of seasoned experts, but among the thousands of ponds, lakes and waterways in Maine even beginners who have learned and practiced the basics of canoe handling will find an abundance of enjoyable canoe voyages--easy, short paddling near civilization, or extended camping trips into wooded wilderness.

But to insure the enjoyment please use sensible safety procedures and go prepared with proper equipment, adequate information, maps, and guidance. Competent Maine guides on wilderness canoe trips have often demonstrated that the old saw, "...always paddle your own canoe," may be poor advice!

Robert Elliot
Vacation-Travel Director
Dept. of Economic Development

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Publications Mentioned in This Folder:

A.M.C. New England Canoeing Guide; \$5
Appalachian Mountain Club,
5 Joy St., Boston, Mass. 02108
Forest Campsites - Maine Forest Service
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
USGS Topographic Maps - U. S. Geological Survey,
1200 So. Eads St., Arlington, Virginia 22202
Family Camping in Maine - Me. Cooperative Camping Ass'n, available from Maine Publicity Bureau

Other Information and Publications about Maine:

Maine Department of Economic Development
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330
Maine Publicity Bureau
78 Gateway Circle, Portland, Maine 04102
State of Maine Information Center
48 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, N. Y. 10020
State of Maine Information Center
Laurentien Hotel, Dominion, Montreal, Canada

Other Information Centers:

Jct. of U. S. Rt. 1 & Me. Turnpike, Kittery, Maine
Bass Park, Bangor, Maine
U. S. Rt. 302, Fryeburg, Maine (summer only)
Maine Turnpike, North Cumberland, Maine (summer only)
Internat'l Bridge, Calais, Maine (summer only)
All Local Chamber of Commerce Offices

GENERAL INFORMATION

87% of Maine's acreage is forestland and many of the canoe trips have the fascination and allurement of the wilderness. This is both an invitation and a warning! To enjoy canoeing Maine invites you to come -- but come prepared if you choose a trip into the wilds, for this requires planning and provision. Over half of the 17½ million acres of forest is in unorganized townships, and much of it remote from stores, gasoline, service stations, and other conveniences and supplies.

CAMPING & FIRES: More than 98% of the forestland through which the waterways flow is privately owned. Canoeists should recognize that they use this land either as guests or as trespassers; they are welcome guests while respecting property rights. 10½ million acres comprise the Maine Forestry District. Here, in cooperation with the landowners, Authorized Campsites and Lunchgrounds are administered by the Maine Forest Service and maintained for public use. Approximate locations are indicated on the current Official Highway Map. It is lawful to camp or to kindle out-of-door fires only at authorized sites unless a special permit is first obtained from a Maine Forest Ranger. Outside the Forestry District permission must be obtained from the landowner. See publication, "Forest Campsites", for details. Other campsites: State Parks and privately operated campgrounds - see Vacation Planner "State Parks in Maine", and brochure "Family Camping in Maine", available from Maine Publicity Bureau.

ACCESS: Public roads reach most of the canoeing waters. A few in the Forestry District have best access by air or railroad, and several by private roads which the owners of these professionally managed timberlands share with the public in a multiple-use concept. Each company has its own policy for public use of their work roads -- some roads are generally open; some have road access fees; some require permits; at times entrance requests exceed facilities and safety factors, so it is best to plan your trip and apply for permits in advance. Contact the companies whose roads you plan to use. Information can be obtained from: Paper Industry Information Office, 133 State St. Augusta, Maine 04330.

AIRPLANE SERVICE: may be arranged through major airports, outfitters & sporting goods suppliers, or floatplane bases at: Bangor-Brewer; China; Greenville; Jackman; Meddybemps; Millinocket; Naples; Old Town; Parlin Pond (So. of Jackman); Portage; Rangeley; Sebago Lake; Sebec Lake; Shin Pond; Stonington.

CANOE RENTAL: Inquire at local Chambers of Commerce. Known sources at Belgrade Lakes; Greenville; Jackman; Millinocket; Princeton; Rangeley.

GUIDE SERVICE: To find guides inquire from local Fish & Game Wardens; Forest Rangers; Sporting Camps and Lodges; local Chambers of Commerce.

PERSONAL PREPARATION & GUIDANCE: If not familiar with the area and character of the stream or river we strongly recommend that you use a guide's services or select only those trips which stay close to civilization, and heed the following pertinent advice. If you choose not to use a guide be sure to: (1) have an adequate map (see MAPS section) and a good compass, and know how to use them; (2) obtain the best information you can about the waterways you plan to travel (see TRIP INFORMATION); (3) choose only those trips which do not exceed your canoeing skills, strength and stamina; (4) have sufficient woodlore and camping skills (for camping-canoe trips); (5) know and heed the regulations about campsites and fire building.

MAPS: U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps are most useful (see Publications section); available in many sporting goods stores, some stationery and other stores. Free index maps available. Some stores also sell Timberland Service Maps by Prentiss and Carlisle Co., Bangor, Maine. Caution: Highway maps are not adequate for this purpose!

TRIP INFORMATION

Adequate information about the many canoe trips in Maine would fill a book--so we recommend a book, the "A.M.C. New England Canoeing Guide", for details about these waterways (see Publications section). It is pre-eminently the best available, though admittedly incomplete and not to be relied on in every detail--for these waters are changeable things. We urge you, when you get into the area, to check locally about water conditions, dams and other obstructions or hazards. Inquire from: Forest Service Divisional or District Rangers; Fish & Game Wardens or Divisional Supervisors; if near the coast, from Sea & Shore Warden Supervisors.

Although we list the trips in this brochure as flat-water, streams and rivers generally are affected by the water level and flow rate; some may be rocky and rough in low water; high water may cover rocky rapids, but the increased flow may develop eddies, churning, or choppy waves. Either way could be hazardous. Wind can develop dangerous waves, especially on larger lakes. Also paddling against a headwind can be exhausting and slow travel.

Only a few of the popular canoeing waters are listed here. Many other accessible ponds and streams will be seen on a highway map, and even more on USGS maps. Caution: unknown waterways are explored more safely going upstream; downstream can pull you into unexpected hazards.

Abbreviations and symbols to provide brief information:

/G/: a guide is advisable; /G*/: we strongly urge guide service.

Average description of water and environment: (1) smooth; (2) mostly smooth; (3) mixed smooth & rapids; (4) continuous rapids; (a) attractive, scenic; (b) pleasant; (c) mediocre; (h) canoe during high water. These may be combined, e.g. [2a], meaning mostly smooth with scenic attractions.

Difficulty ratings (using the International River Classification--see A.M.C. Canoeing Guide): (class I), (class II), etc.; in this list we have tried to select trips which do not exceed class II except when such greater difficulties can be either portaged or lined down. Note: we do not have these ratings for all rapids in the waterways listed. Inquire further before running streams.

R: River, L:Lake, P:Pond, S:Stream; +:dangerous or impassable; ptg: portage(s) or carry, preceded by number of portages.

Camping: ▲Forestry Campsites, ▲State Parks, △Commercial Campgrounds, △Other Camping, △* Permits required.

POPULAR CANOE TRIPS

- Saco R:** Swan's Falls to Hiram, 33 mi., 1-3 days; (2b) △*; safe, no portage (1 easy rip can be carried) "wilderness" canoeing close to populated area. Below Hiram 44 mi. to ocean, 8-10 ptg. around dams, + rips & gorges; otherwise (2b).
Moose P: Rt. 202 to Saco R, 12 mi.(1b); 1 ptg. around 3 dams.
Kezar L: N. Lovell to Saco R, 17½ mi. (1a); 1 ptg; ▲
- Rangeley Lakes :** /G/45 mi.; 3-14 days; ▲▲▲; Rangeley L & R ptg 1½ mi. or (class II) to Moosehead L; Cusupscit L; Richardson Lakes; 2-3 ptg. plus 8 mi. ptg (trucking service available) to Umbagog L.(can be reached from Aziscohos L.).
- Kennebec R:** The Forks to Bath, 125 mi; 1 week; (1b) 8-10 ptg; first 9 mi. continuous rapids (cl. I); tidewater below Augusta; good take out at Richmond; stronger tidal effects to Bath; check about pulp logs, esp. at Norridgewock & Skowhegan; maybe objectionable odors from pollution. Waterville & below.
- Cobbsesee S. & Lakes:** 41 mi; 2 days;(1a-b) 4 easy ptg; ▲△*; Torsey L-Maranacook L-Annabessacook L-Cobbseseecontee -Cobbsesee S. (through Pleasant P) to dam at Gardiner.
- Belgrade Lakes circle trip:** 32-41 mi; 2 days; (1a) 4 ptg; △△*; North P-Great P-Long P-Belgrade S-Messalonskee L to Oakland a few miles from starting place.
- Chain of Ponds:** 5-7 mi.(1a)▲△*; beautiful, no ptg; (1 ptg to): N. Branch Dead R. to Flagstaff L: 15 mi.(3a); ▲▲; 2-3 ptg. Flagstaff L. to Long Falls Dam: 16 mi; (3a); ▲▲△*; with ptg. at Long Falls D. continue to Grand Falls (through marsh to old log dam; out on left; ¼ mi. hike to Grand Falls & return).

(continued on other side)